

邊疆、國家與市場：雍正至道光年間重慶商人團體的 緣起與歷史

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清代重慶商人團體的歷史有幾個鮮明的特色。首先，因為明清之際四川人口的大幅減少，重慶的市場從極度低迷中自康熙晚期開始發展，而到嘉慶年間已成為最活躍的內陸港市之一。其次，重慶商業被來自他省的移民所支配，各省行商所匯聚形成的多樣化社會，成為快速發展的重慶城市文化之核心。第三，四川在清朝西部邊疆的國防戰略上的重要地位，其財稅政策較為特殊，也使得重慶意外地形成了稅收沈重、獲利亦豐的批發和農產品市場。重慶市多樣商人群體欠缺建構完善的行商組織，而加諸這個新興市場的沈重稅賦，這些因素相加起來，形成社會與國家試圖透過制度去管理重慶地區商業的嚴酷考驗。

我的演講觀察了在這個特殊環境下，重慶商人所使用的商業組織的各種形式，藉此再檢視這些組織的功能，並提出關於重慶商人團體「如何」以及「為何」相異於沿海商業都市同業組織的推論。結論將討論一些關於重慶商人團體在清代的發展，是如何在國家建構、經濟發展及社會組織等方面造成不同軌跡的假設。

主講人介紹：

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“Frontier, State, and Market: The Origins and Histories of Chongqing Merchant Associations from Yongzheng to Daoguang”

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The history of Chongqing’s merchant community in the Qing is marked by several special characteristics. First, because of the full-scale depopulation of Sichuan during the Ming-Qing transition, Chongqing’s market emerged out of absolute desolation, starting in the late Kangxi period and became, by the Jiaqing reign, one of the fastest-growing and most active inland ports of the empire. Secondly, the market was dominated by immigrants from other provinces, which produced a particularly diverse community of merchant sojourners at the core of the city’s burgeoning urban culture. Thirdly, Sichuan’s place in the Qing military strategy on the western frontier led to special fiscal policies that created a heavily-taxed and highly profitable market in wholesale and agricultural products at Chongqing. The lack of well-established merchant groups, the diversity of the city’s merchant constituency, and the complex and heavy tax burden on the booming market combined to create a crucible for the development of social and state institutions designed to govern commerce in the city.

This talk surveys some of the forms of commercial organization employed by the merchants of Chongqing in this special environment. It reviews the functions of these organizations, and proposes a series of conclusions about how and why the merchant groups of Chongqing seem to differ from the more well-studied merchant groups in the commercial cities on China’s eastern seaboard. It concludes with some suggestions about how the trajectory of merchant group development in Chongqing invites a different interpretation about the history of state-building, economic growth, and social organization at the local level throughout the Qing.